

Mari Mut, J. A. In press. Puerto Rican species of *Seira*. *Carib. J. Sci.* 22(3-4).

Packard, A. S. 1873. Synopsis of the Thysanura of

Essex County, Mass., with descriptions of a few extralimital forms. *Rep. Peabody Acad. Sci.* 5: 23-51.

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89(1), 1987, p. 131

NOTE

Brachymeria discretoidea, a new junior synonym of *Brachymeria discreta* (Hymenoptera: Chalcididae)

Brachymeria (Gahanula) discreta Gahan and *Brachymeria (Gahanula) discretoidea* Gahan were described in 1942 (*Proc. U.S. Natl. Mus.* 92: 43-44) and considered to be similar to one another. *Brachymeria discreta* was based on specimens from Mexico, *discretoidea* on specimens from Panama. *Brachymeria discreta* was later recorded from Texas, Arizona, Southern California, and Hawaii, and *discretoidea* from Arizona, Texas, and Mexico (Burks, 1979. *Chalcididae*, pp. 860-874. In Krombein, K. V. et al., eds., *Catalog of Hymenoptera in America North of Mexico*. Vol. I. *Smithson. Inst. Press.*, Wash., D.C.). *Brachymeria discreta* has been reared from the nest of *Polistes instabilis* Sauss. (Hymenoptera: Vespidae), probably from a pyraustid moth that infested the wasp nest, and from a species of *Tinea* (Lepidoptera: Tineidae) breeding in chicken droppings. *Brachymeria discretoidea* has been reared from the nest of *Trigona amalthea* (Oliv.) (Hymenoptera: Apidae) infested by an unidentified moth (Gahan, *ibid.*; Burks, 1960, *Trans. Am. Entomol. Soc.* 86: 225-273).

Burks (1960) indicated difficulty in determining material as either *discreta* or *discretoidea* and that the differences noted by Gahan tended to intergrade. He chose not to synonymize the two species and indicated that, except for the characters in his key ("frontal carina always well developed versus weak-virtually absent; ocellular line $\frac{2}{3}$ versus $\frac{3}{5}$ as long as diameter of lateral ocellus; marginal vein 4 versus $3\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as postmarginal; propodeum with an

elongate-median areola versus lacking"), the two species were alike in color and structure.

Upon examining the types of both species (in the U.S. Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., Nos. 55149 and 55150) and additional material from various localities, I have concluded that the material represents one species, that the color differences and intergrading characters of Gahan and Burks merely represent intraspecific variation. I therefore consider *discretoidea* a junior synonym of *discreta*.

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